

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,281,960, in view of Murouchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,067,144, and further in view of Kajita et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,275,280. Claims 3-5, 12, 14, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto et al., Murouchi et al., and Kajita et al., and further in view of Mashiko et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,288,766. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto et al., Murouchi et al., and Kajita et al., and further in view of Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,414,733. Claims 7-9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto et al., Murouchi et al., Kajita et al., and Ishikawa et al., and further in view of Ogura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,739,888.

Independent claims 1 and 15 provide that none of the column spacers are formed in an area of a sealing layer formed between a matrix of the pixels and a peripheral area. This feature of independent claims 1 and 15 is supported in the specification by page 16, lines 16-23.

Neither Kishimoto et al. nor Murouchi et al. disclose, teach, or suggest the feature of no column spacers in the area of a sealing layer. Kishimoto et al. does not disclose the feature of a sealing layer; Murouchi et al. discloses this feature, according to the Examiner, (Office Action, page 6, paragraph 4, lines 5-6), citing column 5, line 7. However, there is no mention in Murouchi et al. of the feature of no column spacers in the area of the sealing layer. Although Figs. 6-8 in Kajita et al. appear to show column spacers 24, (Office Action, page 4, line 20, to page 5, line 2), there is no exclusion of column spacers from a sealing layer area where the sealing layer is formed between the matrix of pixels and a peripheral area.

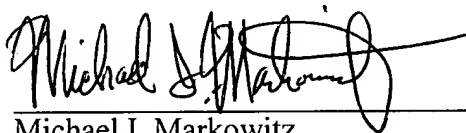
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 15 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael I. Markowitz", written over a horizontal line.

Michael I. Markowitz
Reg. No. 30,659

Enclosure: Amended Fig. 5

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

Phone No.: (212) 940-8687

Fax No.: (212) 940-8986/7

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:NEKW 17.876

MIM:lh

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please find enclosed a copy of Fig. 5, as originally filed, with proposed amendments indicated thereon in red for the approval of the Examiner.